



NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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U.S.-Canadian Task Force to Hold Public Meetings on August Power Blackout

WASHINGTON, DC -- The U.S.-Canadian Power System Outage Task Force is holding a series of public meetings on the Task Force's Interim Report regarding the August 14 blackout that affected an estimated 50 million people in Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, and the Canadian province of Ontario. The report is available online at <https://reports.energy.gov/>.

On November 19, Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham presented the Interim Report and announced that, as part of Phase Two of the Task Force Investigation, a series of public forums in the affected areas of both countries would be held to give the public an opportunity to comment on the Interim Report's findings and present ideas for improving the reliability of our electric infrastructure and preventing future blackouts.

After this process, the Task Force will issue a final report containing recommendations for improving the electric system and for any appropriate follow-up.

Individuals will be allowed five minutes to present their concerns before the panel, which will include James W. Glotfelty, the Director of the newly formed Office of Electric Transmission and Distribution at the U.S. Department of Energy and Dr. Nawal Kamel, Special Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources in Canada.

Registration to speak begins at 8:00 a.m. The meetings will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. with limited seating. A computer station for entering comments will also be available on-site.

The meetings will be held as follows:

December 4, 2003
Renaissance Cleveland
24 Public Square
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

December 5, 2003
Park Central Hotel
870 Seventh Avenue
New York City, New York 10019

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December 8, 2003
Westin Harbor Castle
Corner of Queens Quay and Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario

The public may also submit comments and recommendations to the Task Force electronically or by mail. Electronic submissions may be sent to poweroutage@nrcan.gc.ca or blackout.report@hq.doe.gov.

Paper submissions may be sent by mail to:

Dr. Nawal Kamel
Special Adviser to the Deputy Minister
Natural Resources Canada
21st Floor
580 Booth Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0E4

and

Mr. James W. Glotfelty
Director, Office of Electric Transmission and Distribution
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20585

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